

Official Bulletin

Content:

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

for the joint consecutive Master of Science in
Geography of Environmental Risks and Human
Security

with the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural
Science at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-
Universität Bonn (University of Bonn)
and the United Nations University

dated 31 March 2017

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Examination Regulations
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Pursuant to §§ 2 Section 4 and 64 Section 1 of the *Gesetz über die Hochschulen des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (Hochschulgesetz – HG)* [Law Governing the Universities of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (University Law – UL)] dated 16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), last amended by the *Gesetz zur Aufnahme der Deutschen Hochschule der Polizei* (Law Governing Acceptance at the German Police Academy) in the *Hochschulgesetz NRW* [Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)] dated 15 December 2016 (GV. NRW. p. 1154), the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (University of Bonn), in agreement with the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security, has issued the following Examination Regulations:

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Section 1 Applicability

§ 1 Applicability

(1) Students who enrol in the joint consecutive Master of Science programme, “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” at the University of Bonn and the United Nations University after these Examination Regulations have taken effect will conduct their studies in accordance with these Regulations.

(2) The Examination Regulations for the joint consecutive Master of Science programme, “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” with the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn and the United Nations University dated 5 August 2013 (official publication of the University of Bonn, Vol. 43, No. 50, dated 23, August 2013), hereafter referred to as MPO GeoRisk 2013, shall cease to be in force as of 30 September 2020. Examinations may be taken in accordance with MPO GeoRisk 2013 up until 30 September 2019. Upon justified request, the Academic Board may extend this deadline for a period of six months.

(3) Students who began their studies in accordance with MPO GeoRisk 2013, before these Examination Regulations took effect, and who have not yet taken all of their examinations may

- a) continue their course of study in accordance with MPO GeoRisk 2013 in the respective applicable version up until the deadline as outlined in Section 2 Sentence 2 or
- b) prior to 30 September 2019, shift to these Examination Regulations upon written request, which shall be irrevocable.

Students who have continued their course of study in accordance with MPO GeoRisk 2013 and who have not completed their studies as of 30 September 2019, shall officially shift to these Examination Regulations as of 30 September 2019. Achievements completed prior to this time will be credited. Section 2 Sentences 2 and 3 remain unaffected.

Section 2

Study Objective, Degree and Standard Period of Study

§ 2

Study Objective and Purpose of the Examination

(1) The Master of Science in “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” is offered by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science at the University of Bonn together with the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (hereafter: UNU-EHS) – as a consecutive and interdisciplinary course of study with a research-oriented profile.

(2) The course of study contained in the framework of this Master’s Degree programme is intended to convey to the students necessary specialised knowledge, abilities and methods, as well as key professionally relevant qualifications, in such a way that the graduates are capable of scientifically sound work, critical assessments and the application of research findings and methods in professional practice as well as responsible action. In the process, the demands and changes of the professional environment and any interdisciplinary processes shall be taken into account. The study objectives are concentrated primarily on

- specialist knowledge oriented toward current research questions and based on in-depth basic expertise;

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- methodological and analytical skills that enable students to independently expand upon their scientific knowledge, with a central focus on research methods and strategies.
- (3) The students should learn to address complex problems and solve them by means of scientific methods, possibly above and beyond the boundaries of current knowledge. The interdisciplinary focus of the Master of Science programme should enable students to recognise multidisciplinary connections and implement scientific methods and findings independently.
- (4) The Master's Examination constitutes the conclusion of further professional qualifications in an in-depth, research-oriented scientific education in the field of Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security, with a particular focus on areas of application in international cooperative organisations in the fields of "Sustainable Development", "Disaster Risk Reduction" and "Vulnerability".

§ 3

Academic Degree

- (1) Once a student has passed the Master's Examination, the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn and the UNU-EHS shall jointly award the academic degree of "Master of Science (M. Sc.)" in "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security".
- (2) The academic degree of "Master of Science" shall only be awarded if the student has passed the Master's Examination and earned 30 credit points for his/her Master's Thesis in the joint Master's Degree course.

§ 4

Standard Period of Study, Credit Point System, Range of Courses, Curriculum Overview and Language of Instruction/Examinations

- (1) The standard period of study for the full-time course, including the Master's Thesis, is four semesters (120 credits).
- (2) The course contents have been selected and limited in such a way that the Master's Examination may be completed within the standard period of study. They are communicated in the form of modules, which generally consist of thematically, methodologically or systematically interrelated educational units.
- (3) Each module generally concludes with a module examination. For each successfully completed module, the student shall receive credit points (CP) as defined by the *European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System* (ECTS). One credit point corresponds to a calculated study workload (in terms of classroom and private study) of 30 hours.
- (4) The course of study comprises modules amounting to 90 CP as well as the Master's Thesis, amounting to 30 CP. The details of the modules, their admission requirements and the number of credits per module are outlined in the Module Outline (Appendix 1).
- (5) To ensure an appropriate structure for the course of study, students shall be provided with a recommended curriculum overview.
- (6) The language of instruction and examinations is English.

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- (7) The course of study may only be commenced in the winter semester.

Section 3
Admission Requirements and Crediting

§ 5
Requirements for Admission to the Study Programme

(1) The consecutive Master of Science in “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” is aimed at candidates who fulfil the following admission requirements:

1. a first university degree qualifying for professional employment in the field of geography or a related field, in which they have earned a total of at least 100 credit points in the following three subject areas:
 - Human Geography and Social Sciences, with an emphasis on the topic area of Space, Society and Development;
 - scientific methodology and empirical research methods;
 - Physical Geography and Environmental Science, with an emphasis on Earth System Science.
 2. English language proficiency at a minimum of Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) as determined by a recognised language test (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS) or equivalent certification.
- (2) Capacity-related admission restrictions (*numerus clausus*) shall remain unaffected.
- (3) The selection of candidates is based on the “Regulations Governing the Selection Process for Participants in the Master of Science Programme in Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” (Selection Process Regulations).

§ 6
Recognition and Crediting of Course Work and Examination Assessments

- (1) Credits which have been earned through courses of study at other state or state-approved universities or at state or state-approved vocational academies, or through courses of study at foreign state or state-approved universities, shall be recognised upon request, to the extent that there is no significant variation from the credits being substituted for in terms of the skills acquired. The Academic Board shall credit those to modules in the curriculum. The same applies for credits earned in other courses of study at the University of Bonn. A definitively failed and no longer compensable examination result from a course of study which is substantially similar in content to the consecutive Master of Science in “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” shall be grounds for denying enrolment, to the extent that the examination content is substantially similar.
- (2) The standard for the recognition of credits is the degree to which differences are significant. The standard for determining whether or not significant differences exist is a comparison of the contents, scope and requirements that were set in place for the completed achievements with those that apply to the credits for which recognition is requested. This should not take place in the form of a schematic

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comparison, but rather of an overall analysis and evaluation. A difference in the number of credit points required does not, in and of itself, represent a significant difference. The abovementioned provisions also apply to credits earned in an advanced programme of study. If no significant differences exist, the credits earned shall be recognised in full. If an examination in accordance with the principles described above determines that earned credits are only partially recognisable, partial credit will be awarded within the appropriate module. The student will be considered to have passed the module in question only when the missing coursework has been completed; only then will credit points be awarded according to the provisions set forth in these Regulations. The Academic Board shall determine the scope and nature of the missing coursework to be completed. In the process of determining equivalency, the equivalency agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the Conference of University Rectors as well as agreements made within the framework of university partnerships shall be taken into account.

(3) Pursuant to § 8 Section 4 Sentence 2, the party responsible for the recognition and crediting process is the Academic Board. The Board determines which courses of study can be considered related to or significantly similar to this one in terms of content. Relevant departmental representatives should be consulted in determining the significance of variations. Furthermore, in the case of uncertainties as to the creditability of achievements earned at foreign institutions, the “Zentralstelle für Ausländisches Bildungswesen” (German Central Office for Foreign Education) may be consulted. The decision to award or deny credit shall be communicated to the student within a period of eight weeks and shall be accompanied by information about the appeal procedure. In the event that results are not credited or that only partial credit is awarded, the Academic Board shall provide reasons for this decision; in this respect, the burden of proof falls to the Academic Board. If the Academic Board refuses to award the desired credit, the student may request a review by the Rector’s Office of the University of Bonn.

(4) If examination results are credited, to the extent that the grading systems are comparable, the grades shall be applied and figured into the calculation of the final grade, weighted with the credit points of the module to which the credits are to be applied. If course work is to be credited, they shall be applied without grading and with the notation “passed”. The crediting shall be identified as such in the transcript. In the case of results from the courses of study that do not use credit point systems, the Academic Board shall calculate these into credit points, to the extent that the examination in question corresponds to module examinations included in these Examination Regulations. The basis for this calculation shall be the standard approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs for comparison with the ECTS.

(5) If the conditions outlined in Section 1 are in place, the student has a legal right to receive credit. It is the student’s responsibility to make available the necessary information about the results to be credited. For each respective semester, the Academic Board shall determine the date within that semester by which a request for credit may be submitted. Requests submitted after the date determined may be considered only in the subsequent semester.

(6) For applicants who, on the basis of a placement test pursuant to § 49 Section 12 UL, are permitted to enrol in a higher study semester, the skills and proficiency determined by the placement test will be credited toward the Master’s Examination. The grades determined in the placement test report shall be binding for the Academic Board.

(7) Upon request, additional skills and qualifications, as determined by documentation provided, may be credited toward this course of study up to a maximum of 50 percent of the required credit points as outlined in § 4 Section 1, provided that these skills and qualifications are equivalent in level and content to the examination results they are intended to replace.

§ 7

Admission to Individual Courses

(1) If, due to the type or purpose of an individual course, or for any other reasons related to research or instruction, it is necessary to limit the number of participants in that course, and if the number of applicants exceeds the maximum capacity, the dean of the faculty responsible for the module in question shall, upon request from the lecturer, determine the rules for acceptance in accordance with § 59 UL.

(2) Courses for which the number of participants may be limited shall be specified in the Module Handbook. The dean shall make the maximum number of participants public prior to the start of each semester. The criteria for priority in admission are specified in Appendix 2 of these Regulations.

Section 4

Academic Board and Examiners

§ 8

Academic Board and Administrative Offices

(1) The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn shall appoint an Academic Board to oversee the organisation of examinations and the execution of the tasks outlined in these Regulations. The dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences is responsible for ensuring that the Academic Board can and does perform its tasks properly. The dean shall provide the necessary instructions for doing so and shall ensure the necessary administrative support.

(2) The Academic Board consists of a Chair, a Deputy Chair and three additional members. The Chair, the Deputy Chair and one other member shall be elected from among the group of university lecturers. One additional member shall be elected from among the academic staff of the Faculty and one from among the students in the Master's Degree programme; they shall be elected by the Faculty Council in separate groups. Those university lecturers who are active in the Master's programme for a minimum of two semester hours per week of their teaching load are eligible for election to the Academic Board. From among the group of academic staff, those members who are currently teaching or have taught in the Master of Science programme "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" or who are active in the organisation of this course of study are eligible for election. From among the group of students, all students who are enrolled in the course of study are eligible for election. For each member of the Academic Board, one deputy member shall also be elected. The term of office for members from the group of university lecturers and from the group of academic staff is three years; the term of office for the student member is one year. Re-election is permissible. The offices of Dean and Vice-Dean of the Faculty are compatible with membership on the Academic Board as well as with the positions of Board Chair and Deputy Chair, to the extent that Faculty rules do not preclude this.

(3) The Academic Board is an administrative body in terms of administrative and administrative procedural law. The Faculty shall establish an administrative office (Academic Office for the Joint Master's Degree) to provide administrative support for the Academic Board.

(4) The Academic Board ensures that the rules stipulated in these Regulations are implemented and ensures that examinations are conducted properly. In particular, this board is responsible for decision-making in the processes of recognising and crediting academic results and for appeals to decisions made in the examination process. The Board reports regularly (at least once per year) to the Faculty Council on the progress of examination and study periods, including the duration of Master's Theses and the distribution of overall grades. Once each semester, the Academic Board informs the Registrar about any students who have definitively failed the Master's Examination according to § 24 Abs. 8, as determined by a final notice from the Academic Board. The Academic Board offers suggestions for reforming the Examination Regulations and the curriculum overview. The Board may decide to transfer the execution of tasks to the Chair. Decisions regarding appeals and reports to the Faculty Council may not be transferred.

(5) Meetings of the Academic Board are in camera. The members of the Academic Board and their deputies are subject to official secrecy. Insofar as they are not employed in public service, they are obligated to confidentiality by the Chair of the Academic Board. Summary minutes of the discussions and resolutions of the Academic Board will be prepared and forwarded to administrative office (Examination Office for the Joint Master's Degree) within ten days after the meeting of the Academic Board.

(6) The Academic Board shall constitute a quorum if, in addition to the Chair or Deputy Chair, a minimum of two additional members or their deputies are present. The Board shall decide with a simple majority. In the case of a tie vote, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote. The student member of the Academic Board shall not participate in the evaluation and crediting of course work and examination results, nor in the determination of examination questions or the appointment of examiners and observers. Members of the Academic Board are permitted to attend examinations.

(7) Regulations, setting of dates and other announcements from the Academic Board which apply to more than one individual shall be publicised with an official notice or in electronic form in compliance with data protection regulations and shall be legally binding. Additional announcements in other forms shall be permitted, but are not legally binding.

(8) The Academic Board may consult with members of the administrative office staff who are familiar with examination administration, either on a long-term basis or for individual meetings or agenda items. In this case, the staff members shall be permitted to speak and ask questions, but they shall not have voting rights.

§ 9

Examiners and Observers

(1) The Academic Board appoints the examiners and observers. Lecturers from the University of Bonn and the UNU-EHS – and, insofar as it is necessary or appropriate to fulfil the purpose of the examination, persons with experience in professional practice and training – are eligible to administer examinations. Only individuals who themselves possess (at a minimum) the qualifications being evaluated in the examination or equivalent qualifications shall be eligible to evaluate examination performance. Only

individuals who have completed (at a minimum) the Master's Examination in question or an equivalent examination may be appointed as observers.

- (2) Module examinations are normally administered by the lecturer of the respective module. In the event that a lecturer is prevented from administering an examination in a timely manner due to illness or other important reasons, the Academic Board shall ensure that an alternative examiner is appointed to administer the module examination.
- (3) In the administration of examinations, examiners shall be independent of any outside influence.
- (4) The Academic Board shall ensure that candidates are given notice of the names of their examiners in a timely manner – normally at least two weeks before the respective examination date.

Section 5

Scope and Implementation of Examinations, Examination Methods and Deadlines

§ 10 Scope of the Master's Examination

- (1) The Master's Examination is intended to provide proof of a higher, in-depth and research-oriented scientific qualification which prepares the candidate for professional practice.
- (2) The Master's Examination consists of
 1. the module examinations which accompany the course of study and pertain to the course content specified in the Module Handbook (Appendix 1);
 2. evidence of the completion of criteria set forth in the Module Handbook in place of a module examination for the awarding of credit points;
 3. the Master's Thesis.All examination credits must be completed within the standard period of study outlined in § 4 Section 1.
- (3) Examinations occur all through the course of study. As a general rule, each module – including modules which consist of several courses – is allocated a corresponding module examination whose results are entered into the final transcript. The awarding of credit points is contingent upon the successful completion of the respective module. A module is considered to be successfully completed if
 - a) the corresponding module examination and/or all partial test results belonging to that module are graded with a minimum mark of "sufficient" or
 - b) the criteria set forth in the Module Handbook in place of a module examination for the awarding of credit points have been shown to be completed.
- (4) If a module consists of more than one course with corresponding partial module examinations, the credit points shall be awarded when the student passes the last partial module examination.
- (5) Examinations shall be conducted in English.

§ 11

Admission to the Master's Examination and to Module Examinations

- (1) The student must apply for admission to the Master's Examination. The application must be submitted to the Academic Board in writing at least four weeks prior to registration for the first module examination. The application must include the following attachments:
 1. documentation of the general requirements for admission outlined in § 5;
 2. a certificate of matriculation as proof of the candidate's enrolment as a regular student in this course of study at the University of Bonn and the United Nations University;
 3. a statement as to whether the student has definitively failed an examination or the Master's Examination in this course of study or whether, at the time of registration for the module examination, the student is currently undergoing a different examination process, the failure of which would be grounds for impeding his or her enrolment. This also applies to examinations/review processes in courses of study which are significantly similar in content to this one.

- (2) The Academic Board can only admit students to module examinations who
 1. fulfil the requirements for admission outlined in Section 1 and provide documentation thereof. Documentation of admission as a regular student in another course of study at the University of Bonn may take the place of the documentation outlined in Section 1 Sentence 3 Clause 2 if, according to its own examination regulations, this course of study imports the module in question;
 2. fulfil any requirements for participation designated for the module in question and any study credits required for the module examination as outlined in the Module Handbook (see Appendix 1).

- (3) If the student is unable to produce a document outlined in Section 1 Sentence 3 in the prescribed manner, the Academic Board may allow him or her to provide proof in another form.

- (4) The decision on a student's admission to the Master's Examination and/or to the module examinations lies with the Academic Board.

- (5) The Academic Board may only refuse admission to an examination if
 - a) the documents stipulated in Section 1 are incomplete and/or have not been submitted within the specified time limit, despite requests to do so;
 - b) the requirements outlined in Section 2 have not been fulfilled;
 - c) the student has definitively failed an examination or the Master's Examination for which no compensation is possible, either in this course of study or a course of study that is significantly similar in content to this one, or
 - d) the student is currently undergoing an examination at another university as specified in § 6 Section 1, in the chosen course of study or in a course of study that is significantly similar in content to the chosen one, insofar as the failure of the examination would lead to definitive failure of the Master's Examination.

§ 12

Module Examinations – Registration and Withdrawal

- (1) For each module examination, the student is required to register electronically with the Academic Board within the prescribed time limit. The option of registering in writing may be granted in justified cases. Registration shall only be permitted insofar and for such period as the student fulfils the admission requirements.
- (2) The Academic Board shall publicise the examination dates and registration deadlines electronically and/or by means of an official notice; these deadlines shall be final.
- (3) A student may withdraw from a written or oral examination without stating any reasons, either in writing or by electronic means, up to one week before the examination date in question. In the case of essays and project work, the candidate may withdraw by electronic means within the time limit announced by the Academic Board in consultation with the lecturer pursuant to § 8 Section 7; these deadlines shall be final. The date of receipt by the Academic Board shall be decisive for withdrawal.
- (4) The rules for registration for the Master's Thesis are specified in § 19 Section 2.
- (5) A student must register for his or her first examination attempt not later than during the fourth semester following the semester in which she was scheduled to attend the course corresponding to that examination in the Module Handbook. If the student misses this deadline, he/she shall lose the right to attend the examination unless he/she can prove that she is not responsible for the default. Subject to a corresponding decision by the Academic Board, loss of the right to attend an examination can lead to exmatriculation through the Registrar.
- (6) Should a student fail an examination, he or she must personally register for the next examination date. Students will not be registered automatically.

§ 13

Examination Conditions and Attendance Requirement

- (1) The module examinations are based on the content and qualification objectives of the modules outlined in the Module Handbook (Appendix 1).
- (2) At the time of the module examinations, the student must be enrolled as a regular student or admitted as a visiting student according to § 52 UL in this course of study at the University of Bonn and the United Nations University, or in course of study at the University of Bonn which, according to its own examination regulations, imports modules from this course of study.
- (3) The module examinations shall test the student in the knowledge and skills acquired within the context of the respective modules as well as in his or her ability to understand relationships in a wider context. Module examinations may be administered in the form of graded partial examinations. Module examinations and partial examinations may take place in the form of
 - written exams;
 - oral exams;
 - essays/ course papers;

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- project reports;
- presentations or
- practical exercises.

The examination forms for the respective modules, requirements for admission and any subdivisions into partial examinations are defined in the Module Handbook. Deviations from the forms outlined in the Module Handbook are permissible according to § 16 Section 4 and § 17 Section 4; the concrete form of an examination shall then be determined by the Academic Board in consultation with the examiners and shall be publicised in a timely manner prior to the start of the semester as outlined in § 8 Section 7.

(4) The Module Handbook may specify any prior course work as prerequisites to participate in a module examination. If those prerequisites are missing, the student may not be admitted to the module examination. Upon request from the lecturer, the Academic Board shall publicise the concrete requirements of the prerequisites prior to the start of the semester in question, as outlined in § 8 Section 7.

(5) Two examination dates shall be set for all module examinations administered in the form of written or oral exams. As a general rule, the first examination date shall occur after the lecture period in the semester in which the module or its corresponding courses are concluded. The second examination date shall be scheduled in such a way that the orderly continuation and conclusion of the course of study are possible within the standard period of study. The Academic Board shall publicise the examination dates in a timely manner prior to the start of the semester, as outlined in § 8 Section 7. Should a candidate be present at only one of the examination dates and fail to pass the examination, he or she shall not be entitled to a further examination date within the same semester.

(6) Courses in which the qualification objective cannot be achieved without the students' active participation may be identified in the Module Handbook as courses for which mandatory regular participation (attendance requirement) is considered a prerequisite for participation in the examination. Prior to the start of the semester, the Academic Board shall specify those courses for which attendance is compulsory, along with the relevant rationale. In this case, the Academic Board shall also specify what shall constitute regular, active and successful participation. Depending on the qualification objective of a course for which attendance is compulsory, absences amounting to a maximum of 30 percent of the course hours are permitted; this also includes absences excused by a medical statement. The Academic Board shall publicise the decisions in accordance with Sentences 2 through 4 prior to the start of the semester, as outlined in § 8 Section 7.

(7) The following rules apply to the assessment of exams:

1. Written examination materials shall be evaluated by at least one examiner. The candidate shall be advised of the evaluation results for written examination materials within a maximum period of four weeks; the evaluation of the Master's Thesis shall be communicated within a maximum period of eight weeks.
2. Performance on oral exams shall always be evaluated by at least two examiners, or by one examiner in the presence of a qualified observer. The main topics and the results of individual examinations shall be recorded in the summary minutes. If the examination is administered by one examiner in the presence of an observer, the examiner shall consult with the observer without the student being present before determining the grade. The candidate shall be notified of the results following the oral examination.

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If a student's examination performance is evaluated by two examiners, the final grade shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual evaluations. If, in this case, the evaluation of only one examiner results in the student's failure of the exam, a third examiner shall be consulted. The grade shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the two higher-scoring individual evaluations. Examination performance in written or oral exams which constitute the conclusion of a course of study – as well as retaken examinations for which there is no possibility for compensation in the case of definitive failure – shall be evaluated by at least two examiners.

§ 14

Compensation for Disadvantages and Extension of Deadlines

(1) If a student is able to furnish the Academic Board with credible evidence that due to a chronic disability or a disability that persists for longer than one semester, he or she is incapable of fully realising his available intellectual abilities within the framework of the exam and is thus partially or completely unable to complete an assignment in the scheduled form and duration, the Academic Board shall permit him or her to deliver an equivalent examination assignment in a manner appropriate to his abilities and/or within a correspondingly extended period of time. The same rule shall apply for course work. The workload of the module in question must be taken into account when determining equivalent requirements. In the determination of compulsory practical work or internships and/or compulsory study abroad, substitute work may be permitted if, due to the student's disability, participation in these activities cannot be demonstrated even with support from the University.

(2) Upon request and if the student furnishes appropriate evidence, in determining the deadline for the first examination attempt as outlined in § 12 Section 5, the Academic Board may take additional time into consideration for:

- a) the care and upbringing of underage children pursuant to § 25 Section 5 of the Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz/BAföG (Federal Training Assistance Act) – up to a maximum of three semesters per child;
- b) participation as an elected representative in university committees, the student body, student body associations or the student union – up to a maximum of four semesters;
- c) serving as an equal opportunities representative – up to a maximum of four semesters;
- d) effects of a disability or serious illness which prolong the duration of study;
- e) care or treatment of a spouse or registered domestic partner, directly descendent relatives, collateral relatives, second degree collateral relatives or first degree relatives by marriage – up to a maximum of three semesters.

§ 15

Retaking Exams

(1) All examination work that is not passed or is considered to be invalid may be repeated up to a maximum of two times. Regulations concerning repetition of the Master's Thesis are outlined in § 20 Section 7.

(2) Failing three times in the same module shall result in the student's loss of the right to examination and, subject to corresponding decision by the Academic Board, to exmatriculation through the Registrar of the University of Bonn and through the United Nations University.

- (3) A module examination that receives a grade of “sufficient” or better may not be retaken.
- (4) If the module examination is linked to the course work and spread over the semester, it cannot be retaken within the same semester. In this case, the module examination may only be retaken in the context of a repetition of the entire module.

§ 16

Written Exams

- (1) In written examinations, students should demonstrate that within a limited period of time and with the help of limited resources, they are capable of identifying a problem from the subject area of the module in question and of finding approaches to a solution using the standard methods for this area. The examiners shall give due notice of the approved resources.
- (2) Written examinations may be handwritten or computer-supported in a proctored setting. Computer-supported written exams consist primarily of free text assignments or cloze texts which may be edited on a computer.
- (3) Each written exam has a minimum duration of 60 minutes and a maximum duration of 180 minutes. § 13 Section 7 shall apply accordingly. The Academic Board shall publicise the specific date of the examination prior to the start of the semester.
- (4) In agreement with the examiner, the Academic Board may replace a scheduled written exam with an oral exam covering the subject area of the module; this substitution shall be publicised in a timely manner prior to the start of the semester, in accordance with § 8 Section 7.

§ 17

Oral Exams

- (1) In oral examinations, the candidate should demonstrate that he or she possesses wide-ranging knowledge of the examination subject, can recognise correlations, and is able to place lines of questioning in these contexts and point out possible solutions.
- (2) Oral examinations shall be administered as individual or group examinations, either by several examiners (collegial exam) or by one examiner in the presence of a qualified observer. If the exam is administered by several examiners, the candidate will only be questioned by one examiner per examination area. The regulations stated in § 13 Section 7 remain unaffected. The examination shall have a minimum duration of 15 minutes and a maximum duration of 45 minutes per candidate and module exam. In the case of group examinations, it must be ensured that the same amount of time is reserved for each candidate within the group
- (3) Students who wish to take the same oral examination at a later date may be permitted to attend the exam as auditors if space allows, provided there are no objections from any of the candidates. The decision shall lie with the examiner; in the case of examinations by a committee, with the committee chair. Permission to attend shall not extend to the consultation and announcement of results. Auditors are not permitted to make recordings during the examination.

(4) In agreement with the examiner, the Academic Board may replace a scheduled oral exam with a written exam covering the subject area of the module; this substitution shall be publicised in a timely manner prior to the start of the semester, in accordance with § 8 Section 7.

§ 18

Essays, Project Reports, Presentations and Practical Exercises

(1) In essays, the candidate should demonstrate that he or she is able to address a specific topic in the subject area of the module in question independently, using the standard methods for that area, and to present his/her work in writing in a manner consistent with the demands of research. Each essay shall consist of a minimum of 15,000 and a maximum of 40,000 characters, including spaces and footnotes. The time allowed for the completion of an essay shall be at least six weeks and not more than 14 weeks after the topic has been assigned. The assignment of an essay, including the topic, should always take place during the semester of the correspondent course. With regard to the semester in which exam registration takes place, the latest submission date for a winter semester is 31 March; for a summer semester, 30 September.

(2) Project reports generally serve to demonstrate students' ability to work in a team and, in particular, their ability to develop, execute and present particular concepts. Here, the candidate should show that he or she is able to identify objectives and develop interdisciplinary concepts and approaches to solutions within the context of a larger or more complex task. The project report is a written analysis of the project results. The time allowed for completion of a project report shall be two to twelve weeks after the assignment of a topic. In the case of a project report prepared in the form of a group project, each individual candidate's contribution must be clearly recognisable and assessable and must fulfil the requirements stipulated in Sentence 1. The duration of the corresponding presentation should be at least 10 minutes and not more than 45 minutes for each candidate. Project reports must be presented prior to the end of the semester in which the course takes place (in a winter semester, by 31 March; in a summer semester, by 30 September).

(3) Presentations are oral reports with a minimum duration of 10 minutes and a maximum duration of 45 minutes, in which the candidate documents his or her ability to present research results comprehensibly and explain them in a discussion. Presentations shall be supplemented by a written report consisting of between 15,000 and 40,000 characters, including spaces and footnotes. The time allowed for preparation for an oral report shall be 2 to 14 weeks; for the written report, between 6 and 14 weeks after the topic has been assigned. Presentations must be made at the latest during the semester in which the corresponding course is completed.

(4) Practical exercises are assignments pertaining to the respective study units, which the candidate shall solve independently in writing within a reasonable time frame. The examiner shall determine the number of exercises and the time allowed for completion and publicise this information in accordance with § 8 Section 7. Practical exercises must be handed in to the examiner during the semester in which the course takes place and by the dates announced by the examiner according to § 8 Section 7.

(5) In the case of written exams, upon handing in the assignment, the student shall also submit a written statement that he or she has completed the assignment independently without the use of any sources or means other than those cited.

(6) Otherwise, the regulations for evaluating written and oral examinations pursuant to § 13 Section 7 shall apply accordingly.

Section 6

The Master's Thesis

§ 19

Declaration, Topic and Scope of the Master's Thesis

(1) The Master's Thesis is a written examination paper whose purpose is to demonstrate that within a specified period of time, the candidate is able to independently address a problem in the subject area of the Master of Science in "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" using scientific methods, find a solution to that problem and present it in an appropriate manner. Through the Master's Thesis, the student shall demonstrate his or her qualification to conduct independent scientific research.

(2) The student must declare his or her Master's Thesis to the Academic Board in writing. The option of declaring by electronic means may be permitted in justified cases. The Academic Board shall publicise the latest dates by which a Master's Thesis must be declared in order that the Master's Degree programme may be completed within the standard period of study.

(3) Upon declaring his or her Master's Thesis, the student must specify the examiners with whom he/she wishes to prepare her thesis.

(4) The topic of the Master's Thesis may be assigned by any examiner whom the Academic Board has appointed for the supervision of Master's Theses according to § 9 Section 1 Sentence 1. As a general rule, the examiner who assigns the topic also supervises that Master's Thesis. If the Master's Thesis is to be assigned and supervised by another university lecturer who is active in research and teaching, or if the Master's Thesis is to be prepared in a different institution outside the University, corresponding consent from the Academic Board shall be required. Such consent may only be granted if appropriate scientific supervision from an examiner is assured.

(5) The topic of the Master's Thesis may be assigned only after the student has earned at least 60 CP and fulfilled the prerequisites outlined in the Module Handbook. The Academic Board shall confirm the topic of the Master's Thesis. The topic of the Thesis and the date of assignment shall be officially recorded. Before declaring his or her Master's Thesis, the student shall be given the opportunity to make suggestions for the area of study from which the topic of the Master's Thesis may be chosen; however, the Academic Board shall not be bound by these suggestions. Upon request from the student, the Academic Board shall ensure that the student is assigned a topic for his or her Master's Thesis in a timely manner as outlined in Section 9.

(6) The student may reject the topic of the Master's Thesis only one time, and only within the first two months after its assignment. Rejection of a topic shall not be counted as a failed attempt. The newly assigned topic must differ significantly in content from the topic that was originally assigned. Upon consultation with the thesis supervisor, the exact title of the Master's Thesis may be modified within the first two months without altering the topic.

(7) The Master's Thesis may not be accepted in the form of a group project.

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(8) The text portion of the Master's Thesis must consist of a minimum of 100,000 and a maximum of 200,000 characters, including spaces and footnotes.

(9) For the Master's Thesis, 30 CP shall be awarded, corresponding to an academic workload of 900 hours. The maximum time allotted for completing the Master's Thesis is six months. The Academic Board shall determine the latest date by which the Master's Thesis may be submitted and shall notify the student of this date. The topic, task and scope of the Master's Thesis shall be limited in such a way that the Master's Thesis may reasonably be completed according to the given requirements within the allotted period of time. Upon justified request and in consultation with the supervisor, the Academic Board may grant an extension period of up to six weeks. The topic of the Master's Thesis shall generally be assigned in the middle of the third semester.

§ 20

Submission, Evaluation and Repetition of the Master's Thesis

(1) The Master's Thesis shall be submitted to the Academic Board in triplicate by the prescribed due date (two copies in paper form and one in a digital version suitable for electronic comparison); the date of submission shall be officially recorded. The candidate may not withdraw his or her Master's Thesis once it has been submitted. If the Master's Thesis is not submitted by the prescribed due date, it shall receive the grade "insufficient".

(2) Upon submitting his or her Master's Thesis, the candidate shall confirm in writing that he/she has composed the thesis independently without using any sources or means other than those specified and has properly cited all quotations. In particular, a Master's Thesis is not considered to be original work if the content or structure and composition used in addressing the topic of the thesis have been dictated by a third party. The Academic Board may require the candidate to produce a sworn affidavit to this effect.

(3) Two examiners shall review and evaluate the Master's Thesis. One of these examiners shall be that individual who assigned the topic of the Master's Thesis; the second examiner shall be appointed by the Academic Board from among the group of examiners as outlined in § 9 Section 1. It is necessary to ensure that one of the examiners is a member of the group of university lecturers at the University of Bonn and the other is a lecturer from the UNU-EHS. The candidate has the right to make suggestions; however, he or she is not entitled to the allocation of any particular examiner.

(4) Individual evaluations shall be carried out in accordance with § 24 Abs. 1 and justified in writing. The grade for the Master's Thesis shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual evaluations to the extent that the difference between them is less than 2.0. If the individual evaluations differ by 2.0 or more, or if any individual evaluation is graded "insufficient", the Academic Board shall appoint a third examiner to evaluate the Master's Thesis. In this case, the grade shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the two better-scoring individual evaluations. The calculation of the mean shall be carried out in accordance with § 24 Abs. 6. Nevertheless, the Master's Thesis may only be graded "sufficient" or better if at least two of the evaluations are graded "sufficient" or better.

(5) The candidate shall be advised of the grade for his or her Master's Thesis no later than eight weeks after the deadline for submission.

(6) For a Master's Thesis graded "sufficient" or better, the candidate shall be awarded 30 CP.

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(7) If the Master's Thesis receives a grade of "insufficient" or is considered to be invalid, the candidate may repeat the Master's Thesis one time. The topic of the second Master's Thesis may be chosen from the same subject area as that of the first Master's Thesis; however, it must differ significantly in content. In any case, rejection of the assigned topic for the second Master's Thesis attempt in the manner outlined in § 19 Section 6 is only permitted if the student did utilise this option in the preparation for his or her first Master's Thesis. If the second Master's Thesis is also graded "insufficient", the Master's Examination shall be considered as definitively failed. This shall result in the student's loss of the right to an examination and the enforceability of a corresponding decision on the part of the Academic Board, leading to the student's exmatriculation through the Registrar of the University of Bonn and the United Nations University.

Section 7
Procedural Irregularities and Protection Provisions

§ 21
Withdrawal, Failure and Complaints

(1) An examination result shall be graded "insufficient" if the candidate withdraws from the examination without reasonable cause after the prescribed deadline for withdrawal according to § 12 Section 3. The same shall apply if the candidate fails to participate in an examination or to submit an assignment within the prescribed time for completion.

(2) After the prescribed deadline for withdrawal, a candidate who is registered for an examination may withdraw for justifiable reasons, in particular due to an inability to sit an examination due to illness. A withdrawal must be reported to the Academic Board immediately. The grounds for withdrawal or default must be immediately and credibly demonstrated in writing. As proof of inability to sit an examination due to illness, the student must submit a medical doctor's statement of this inability. If the withdrawal from a written examination takes place after the start of the exam/handling out the exam's sheet, a doctor should be consulted on the same day in order to determine the student's inability to take the examination. In individual cases, the Academic Board may require the submission of a statement from a doctor appointed by the University, or some other proof that is deemed necessary, if there is sufficient evidence indicating that the student may be assumed capable of taking the exam. As a general rule, withdrawal from an examination shall specifically not be permitted if the candidate has already had access to the results of the exam or has become aware of them by some other means. If the Academic Board recognises the evidence for a reasonable withdrawal due to illness or other justified reasons, the examination attempt shall be considered not to have been undertaken.

(3) In the case of flaws or deficiencies in an examination, the candidate must notify the responsible examiner or supervisor immediately. The complaint must be recorded and submitted to the Academic Board. If the Academic Board finds the complaint to be valid, the examination attempt will be considered not to have been undertaken.

§ 22
Fraud and Breach of Regulations

(1) If a candidate attempts to influence the result of his or her examination through deception or the use of non-approved resources, the examination in question shall be graded “insufficient”. The determination shall be made by the respective examiner or supervisor, put on record and forwarded to the Academic Board. Any candidate who disturbs the proper functioning of an examination may, after receiving a warning, be excluded from the remainder of the examination by the examiner or supervisor. In this case, the examination in question shall be declared failed and graded “insufficient”. The reasons for the candidate’s exclusion shall be put on record.

(2) Within a period of two weeks, the candidate may request that the Academic Board review decisions pursuant to Section 1 Sentence 1.

(3) In the case of multiple or otherwise serious cheating attempts, the candidate may be exmatriculated. The Academic Board shall evaluate to what extent multiple or otherwise serious attempts at cheating have taken place. The Rector of the University of Bonn shall decide in which cases an attempt at cheating shall result in exmatriculation. Exmatriculation shall be carried out through the Registrar of the University of Bonn.

(4) Anyone who intentionally violates any rule concerning deception in examinations included in these Examination Regulations shall be committing an administrative offence. Such an offence is punishable by a fine of up to 50,000 euros. The administrative authority responsible for the prosecution and punishment of administrative offences according to Sentence 1 is the Chancellor of the University of Bonn.

§ 23

Protection Provisions

(1) Upon notification from the candidate, maternity protection periods shall be observed in accordance with the Maternity Protection Act (Mutterschutzgesetz/MuSchG) currently in force; the required verification shall be attached. Maternity protection periods shall suspend all deadlines set forth in these Regulations; the duration of the maternity protection period shall not be calculated into the deadlines. Once the required verification has been submitted, the Academic Board shall inform the candidate of the newly scheduled examination deadlines.

(2) Likewise, upon request, periods of parental leave as outlined in the laws governing parental benefits and parental leave (BEEG) that are currently in force shall be observed. At least four weeks prior to the date at which the candidate wishes to begin his or her parental leave, he or she must inform the Academic Board in writing, accompanied by the required verification, of the time period or time periods for which he or she wishes to avail him- or herself of said leave. The Academic Board shall determine whether the legal preconditions exist under which an employee would qualify for parental leave according to the BEEG and shall then immediately notify the candidate of this determination and, if applicable, of any newly scheduled examination deadlines. Consideration periods for examination assignments may not be suspended due to parental leave. The assigned examination topics shall be counted as unassigned. Following the conclusion of parental leave, the candidate shall be assigned a new topic.

(3) Upon request, absences for the purpose of nursing or care of a spouse or registered domestic partner, directly descendent relatives, collateral relatives, second degree collateral relatives or first degree relatives by marriage, if these individuals require care or treatment. The Academic Board shall

determine whether the conditions exist as outlined in Sentence 1. A request should be submitted immediately when these conditions occur and must be accompanied by robust evidence. The Academic Board shall promptly inform the candidate of its determination as well as any newly scheduled examination deadlines. Consideration periods for examination assignments may not be suspended due to such absences. The assigned examination topics shall be counted as unassigned. Following the conclusion of period of absence, the candidate shall be assigned a new topic.

Section 8
Evaluation and Degree Certificates

§ 24
Evaluation of Examination Performance, Calculation of Grades and
Passing the Master's Examination

(1) Grades for the individual examination assignments shall be determined by the respective examiners. If more than one examiner evaluates an exam, the grade shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual evaluations. § 13 Section 7 remains unaffected. The following grades shall be used for the evaluation:

1	Very good	Excellent performance
2	Good	Performance significantly above average requirements
3	Satisfactory	Performance meets average requirements
4	Sufficient	Performance meets requirements despite some deficiencies
5	Insufficient	Due to significant deficiencies, performance does not meet requirements

For the purpose differentiated evaluation of examination performance, individual grades may be raised or lowered by a factor of 0.3, with the exclusion of the values 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3.

(2) The examination for a module shall be considered passed when the student achieves a minimum grade of "sufficient". If the module grade is comprised of several partial assessments, the grade shall be calculated according to the weighing of the individual assessments as outlined in the Module Handbook. § 10 Section 3 Sentence 4 remains unaffected. The module grade is defined as follows:

for an average of up to 1.5 = very good
for an average of 1.6 up to and including 2.5 = good
for an average of 2.6 up to and including 3.5 = satisfactory
for an average of 3.6 up to and including 4.0 = sufficient
for an average of 4.1 or more = insufficient.

(3) The candidate shall be notified of the evaluation of his or her written examination results no later than four weeks after the examination and of the evaluation of his Master's Thesis no later than eight weeks after the deadline for submission. The announcement shall be made via posted notice or in electronic form in the organisational system for examinations, in accordance with data protection requirements. Notification shall take place prior to the conclusion of the standard period of study.

(4) The Master's Examination shall be considered passed if the student passes all of the required module examinations pursuant to § 4 Section 4 as well as the Master's Thesis with a grade of "sufficient" or better and when he or she has thereby earned 120 CP.

(5) Graded modules will be included in the calculation of the overall grade. Each individual module grade shall be weighed via multiplication by the number of credit points for the module in question. The sum of all module grades weighed in this manner shall be divided by the total number of credit points for all graded modules (weighed arithmetic mean). Section 2 Sentence 4 shall apply accordingly. Deviating from this, an overall grade of "Distinction" shall be awarded when the overall grade achieved is 1.3 or better and the Master's Thesis is graded "very good" (1.0). Modules which, due to a lack of comparability in the grading system, are recognised as "passed" shall not be included in the calculation of the overall grade.

(6) In the composition of the module grade and the overall grade, only the first digit after the decimal point shall be considered; all further digits shall be truncated without rounding.

(7) In order to facilitate international comparison, the overall grade shall be assigned the corresponding relative classification pursuant to the ECTS grading scale.

(8) The Master's Examination shall be definitively failed if

- the candidate has thrice failed to successfully complete a module examination according to § 10 Section 3 Sentence 4 lit. a or § 15 Section 2; or
- a repeated Master's Thesis is graded "insufficient".

§ 25 Transcript

(1) Immediately after all grades have been finalised, the candidate shall receive a temporary transcript containing the results of the successful Master's Examination. Thereafter, the student shall be issued a bilingual transcript in both German and English. The transcript shall include

- all modules for which credit points have been earned;
- the semester in which credit points were earned;
- the grades achieved for the individual examinations;
- the topic and grade of the Master's Thesis;
- the date of the final examination and
- the overall grade for the Master's Examination.

Upon request from the candidate, the transcript may also include the results of additional examinations pursuant to § 30; these results are not calculated into the overall grade.

(2) The transcript shall bear the date of issue. It shall be signed by the Chair of the Academic Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science and the Chair of the Academic Board of the UNU-EHS and stamped with the seal of both Academic Boards.

(3) If a candidate has definitively failed or is considered to have definitively failed the Master's Examination, the Academic Board shall provide the candidate with a written notification accompanied by information about the appeal procedure.

(4) If a student leaves the two universities without completing his or her degree, he or she may, after exmatriculation, request receipt of a transcript of her total completed academic and examination credits. This transcript shall be limited to the portions of the course of study that the student has successfully completed. Furthermore, upon request, the student is entitled to receive a written testimonial stating which examination requirements have not been passed or which requirements need to be completed in order to pass the Master's Examination.

§ 26 Master's Degree Certificate

Together with the transcript of the Master's Examination, the candidate shall be presented with a bilingual Master's Degree Certificate in German and English, marked with the date of the transcript and certifying the award of the academic degree pursuant to § 3. The certificate shall be signed by the Chair of the Academic Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science and the Chair of the Academic Board of UNU-EHS, as well as by the Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science and the Rector of UNU-EHS, and shall be stamped with the seal of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science and that of the United Nations University.

§ 27 Diploma Supplement

The Master's Degree certificate shall be accompanied by a *Diploma Supplement*. The Diploma Supplement is a standardised document in both English and German, which contains the following information:

- the essential contents of the course of study upon which the degree is based;
- the schedule of studies;
- the skills acquired with the degree;
- information on the accreditation of the course of study and
- information about the universities conferring the degree.

The Diploma Supplement shall also display the relative classification of the overall grade for the Master's Degree on the ECTS grading scale.

§ 28 Access to Examination Records

(1) Upon request, the candidate may be permitted access to his or her written examinations; the request must be made within three months after the results of the examination have been announced. In this case, § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act shall remain unaffected.

(2) Upon request, within a period of three months after the candidate's transcript has been issued pursuant to § 25, the Academic Board may grant him or her access to her examination records. In this case, § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act shall remain unaffected.

(3) The Academic Board shall determine the time and place that the records may be examined and shall notify the candidate accordingly in due time.

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§ 29

Invalidity of the Master's Examination, Revocation of the Master's Degree

- (1) If a candidate has cheated on an exam and this fact only becomes known once a transcript has been issued, the Academic Board may accordingly adjust the grades for the examination assignments in which the cheating took place, as well as the overall grade, and may declare the examination failed, either in whole or in part.
- (2) If the prerequisites for admission to an examination were not fulfilled, in the absence of any intention of cheating on the part of the candidate, and if this fact only becomes known once a transcript has been issued, the act of passing the examination shall rectify this deficiency. If a candidate has obtained admission to the exam through intentionally deceitful means, the Academic Board shall decide upon the legal consequences in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
- (3) Prior to such a decision, the candidate in question shall be granted the opportunity to make a statement.
- (4) The incorrect examination transcript shall be revoked and, if appropriate, a new exam transcript shall be issued. If one or more examinations are declared failed due to cheating, the Master's Degree certificate and all other written documentation of the university degree shall be revoked along with the incorrect exam transcript. If a period of five years has passed subsequent to the issuing of the examination transcript, a decision pursuant to Section 1 and Section 2 Sentence 2 shall not be permitted.
- (5) If the Master's Examination as a whole is declared to be failed, all of the participating faculties and universities shall revoke the Master's Degree and the Master's Degree certificate along with all other written documentation of the university degree shall be retracted.

§ 30

Additional Examination Credits

To the extent that not all examination credits outlined in § 10 Section 2 have been completed, students may, upon request, complete examination credits in additional modules above and beyond their standard course of study, amounting to a maximum of 15 CP. These may also include modules which cannot be credited but which are offered as part of another course of study at the University of Bonn and may be selected as an additional module in this course of study. Only modules which have been completed within one-and-a-half times the standard period of study may be taken into account. Upon request from the student, the results of these examinations shall be included in his or her transcript in accordance with § 25; however, these credits shall not be calculated into the determination of the overall grade.

Section 9
Coming into Force

§ 31
Coming into Force and Publication

These Regulations shall take effect on the day after their publication in the Official Notices of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (University of Bonn) – Announcements.

J. Beck

Dean
of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science
at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
(University of Bonn)
Professor Dr Johannes Beck

Issued on the basis of the decision by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science dated 25 January 2017 and the resolution of the Rectorate dated 14 March 2017.

Bonn, 31 March 2017

M. Hoch

Rector
of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
(University of Bonn)
Professor Dr Michael Hoch

Appendix 1: Module Outline for the consecutive Master of Science in “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security”

Explanatory notes on the Module Outline:

- Abbreviations for the course forms: S = Seminar, FT = Field trip, I = Internship, PS = Project seminar

- Courses marked with an asterisk (*) denote those for which the Academic Board may require participation as a prerequisite for taking part in the module examination according to § 13 Section 6 (field trips, language courses, internships and practical exercises as well as similar courses). In these cases, participation is required in addition to any other academic requirements which may be listed.

- The column “Duration/Semester of study” specifies the duration of the module (in semesters) and the location within a semester of study.

- The column “Course Work” exclusively course work which serves as prerequisite for participation in an exam and/or criteria for the awarding of credit points in modules for which no exam is given.

Modules JM2, JM3, JM5, JM6, JM7 and 8000 are the responsibility of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science. The Examination Regulations of the University of Bonn apply to those modules. Modules JM1, JM4, JM8, JM9 and JM10 are the responsibility of the UNU-EHS. These Examination Regulations apply to those modules.

First year of study								
Module number/ Abbreviation	Module name	Course form	Requirements for participation	Duration / Semester of study	Subject matter (content) and qualification objective	Course Work	Examination form	CP
JM1	Theories and Concepts of Risk	S*	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 1 st Sem.	The ability to critically discuss and apply key concepts and theories of risk, vulnerability and resilience	Text discussions, presentation	Written exam	6
JM2	General Approaches to Risk & Human Security	S*,S*	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 1 st Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of different theoretical approaches and paradigm shifts • Understanding of relevant theories for the analysis of risk and human safety • Knowledge of key concepts of earth system research and earth surface processes 	Assumption of moderation tasks	Presentation 40% and essay 60% in one of the seminars	12
JM3	Research Methods I	S*	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 1 st Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific theory, methodology • Critical analysis of the potentials and limitations of research methods • Focus on qualitative methods, discourse analysis, ethnography, quantitative methods, GIS, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary methods 	Assumption of moderation tasks, practical exercises	Presentation 40% Essay 60%	6
JM4	Academic & Intercultural Skills	S*	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 1 st Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of standards of scientific practice (writing and presentation) • Experience with target group-focused presentation and moderation in intercultural situations • Ability to conduct academic literary research 	Team-building exercises, moderation tasks, literary research practical exercises	No exam	6

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JM5	Advanced Debates on Risk & Human Security	S*,S*	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 2 nd Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of current debates on risk and human security • Detailed examination of theoretical perspectives and key concepts in the natural and social sciences 	Text discussions, assumption of moderation tasks	For each seminar, one presentation 40% and one essay 60% (Weighting 1:1)	12
JM6	Research Project / Practical Training	PS*	none	D: 2 Sem. SS: 2 nd and 3 rd Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify and analyse relevant research questions independently • Ability to design and carry out research projects in small groups 	Project outline, assumption of practical exercises, project evaluation	Presentation 40% Project report 60%	12
JM7	Research Methods II	S*	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 2 nd Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and apply appropriate methods in the research process • Ability to apply acquired knowledge in the context of international organisations and mechanisms 	Project outline, assumption of practical exercises, project evaluation	Practical exercises	6
Second year of study								
JM8	Field trips	FT	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 2 nd Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in geographic observation • Insights into institutions operating in the areas of Environmental Risk and Human Safety • Ability to conduct expert interviews 	Presentation, short reports	No exam	6
JM9	Applied Topics on Risk & Human Security	S*, S*	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 3 rd Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of current strategies in disaster protection and humanitarian aid at the national and global levels • Familiarity with important policy fora (international / UN, regional, national) 	Lecture notes, short presentations	Written exams in both seminars	12
JM10	Internship	I	none	D: 1 Sem. SS: 3 rd Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of structures and work processes in thematically relevant organisations 	Internship report	No exam	12
8000	Master's Thesis		Verification of 60 CP in the course of study	D: 1 Sem. SS: 4 th Sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a written Master's Thesis • Knowledge of the theoretical, methodological and thematic contexts of the chosen research topic • Ability to convincingly present arguments based on academic principles 		Master's Thesis	30

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Appendix 2: Rules for Admission to Courses

If, due to the type or purpose of an individual course, or for any other reasons related to research or instruction, it is necessary to limit the number of participants in that course, and if the number of applicants exceeds the maximum capacity, participation in the course shall be determined as follows:

Applicants shall be considered in the following order:

- Group 1:

Students who are enrolled as regular students in the joint consecutive Master of Science programme “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” at the University of Bonn and the United Nations University and, according to the study plan, are obligated to attend the course in question, and who are currently enrolled in the same or a later semester as the one for which attendance in this course is prescribed in the study plan, if they

- a) were admitted too late to register for the course during the first semester, or
- b) have been excluded by lottery from attending the course at least once;

- Group 2:

Students who are enrolled as regular students in the joint consecutive Master of Science programme “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” at the University of Bonn and the United Nations University in the same or a later semester as the one for which attendance in this course is prescribed in the study plan and who do not belong to Group 1;

- Group 3:

All other students who are enrolled as regular students at the University of Bonn and the United Nations University and who, according to the study plan, are permitted to participate in the course;

- Group 4:

All other students.

All other admission requirements remain unaffected. Within the individual groups – with the exception of Group 4 – priority shall be given to those students who can provide evidence of the most credit points in this course of study or in another course of study at the University of Bonn that imports modules from this course of study. All conditions being equal, the final decision shall be made by lottery.